Appln. No.: 10/849,250

Amendment dated December 26, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2007

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of September 26, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18, 22-35 and 47-59 remain in this application. Claims 19-21, 36-46 and 50-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

### Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended to update the status of the related application in paragraph [01]. No new matter has been added.

# Double Patenting

Claims 1-14, 23-35 and 47-49 stand rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-57 of U.S. patent no. 6,917,373. Notwithstanding the merits, to obviate this rejection and expedite prosecution, applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 15-22, 36-46 and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 15-22, 40-50 and 51-54, respectively, of prior U.S. patent no. 6,917,373. Applicants have canceled claims 19-21, 36-46 and 50-53 rendering their rejection moot. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 19-21 and is believed to be different in scope from any claim of the '373 patent. Claims 16-18 and 22, which ultimately depend from claim 15 are considered to be different in scope from claims 16-18 and 22 of the '373 patent. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/849,250

Amendment dated December 26, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2007

## CONCLUSION

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: December 26, 2007

By: /Gary D. Fedorochko/

Gary D. Fedorochko Registration No. 35,509

1100 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 1200 Washington, D.C. 20005-4051 Tel: (202) 824-3000 Fax: (202) 824-3001

GDF:lab